



# Food Protection and Defense Institute

A Homeland Security Center of Excellence

August 21, 2020

## COVID-19 Near-Term Issues Spotting in Food Supply Chain

### UPDATE #41

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Update #41 is the final scheduled update. As the pandemic continues, the effect on the food supply chain will continue to be monitored. If additional disruptions, secondary effects, or cascading events begin to emerge, updates will be reinstated.



## Action Opportunity Update

### Critical path to mitigate broader food system disruption

- Address increasing level of COVID-19 infections in food processing and farm level production facilities
  - Enhance COVID-related worker health and surveillance processes
  - Coordinate worker protective equipment to:
    - maintain worker safety with normal operation PPE;
    - maintain food safety with normal operation sanitation wear; and
    - enhance COVID-19 infection control measures
- Monitor food production and processing status to identify transition points and potential cascading effects including critical supply chains (e.g. packaging, ingredients, transportation)
- Coordinate public health efforts to address community spread in vulnerable food processing and farm worker communities
- Monitor global impact of COVID-19 on food security as a potential precursor for civil unrest

### Critical path to maintain meat supply chain resolution

- Maintain operating capacity at processing facilities in consideration of worker health with coordination of worker protective equipment to:
  - maintain worker safety with normal operation PPE (specific to each job function and may include, for example, cut-resistant clothing, bump caps, dust masks/respirators, protective eyewear, protective foot wear, etc.);
  - maintain food safety with normal operation sanitation wear (specific to each product produced and may include, for example, hair/beard nets, disposable gloves, cloth or disposable coats/gowns, shoe covers, etc.); and
  - enhance COVID-19 infection control measures through cloth-face coverings, social distancing, physical barriers, etc.
- Continue weekend processing to enhance short-term capacity until equilibrium is established



## Situation Update

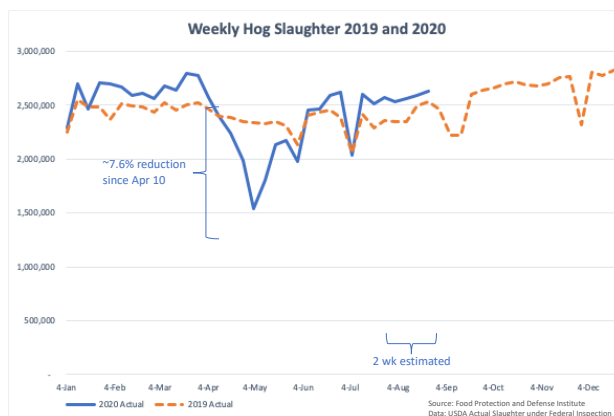
### Action by Appointed and Elected Officials

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## Weekly Meat Update

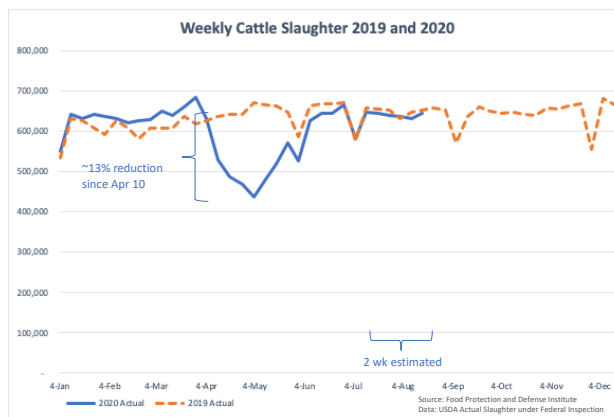
### Hog Slaughter

- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending August 22 were slightly higher than pre-COVID levels with an 8% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 11. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- As reported in the Update #34 issued on July 3, 2020, cumulative overstock estimates (~4.5MM) are higher than actual current overstock inventory due to the confidentiality and sensitivity of depopulation and young stock culling at the farm level. In addition, rendering capacity and alternative supply chains contributed greatly to decreasing overstock levels with date for this contribution residing in the private sector.
- Using the June 2020 Quarterly Hogs and Pigs inventory, total current overstock is estimated at approximately 1.5MM animals.



### Cattle Slaughter

- Weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending August 22 were near normal capacity with a 13% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Daily Estimated Livestock Slaughter; USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Cattle slaughter has been steady for several weeks at near 2019 levels indicating little flexibility in increasing capacity to manage overstock. Thus, it is likely that overstock will gradually diminish as calf placements are throttled.





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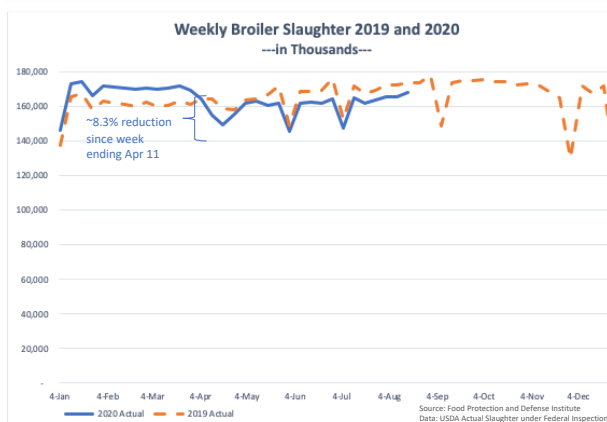
## Young Turkey Slaughter

- Young turkey weekly slaughter numbers for the week ending August 16 were near normal capacity with a 6% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)



## Broiler Slaughter

- Broiler slaughter numbers for the week ending August 16 were down approximately 8% from normal capacity an 8% reduction to date starting from the week ending April 4. (USDA Actual Slaughter under Federal Inspection)
- Broiler slaughter is showing stabilization at capacity about 8% under 2019 capacity. With the length of the production cycle for broilers, consistency of production capacity for the past 2 months suggests a new equilibrium has been achieved.



## Media Update

### Webinars

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### Processing facilities media coverage

(This section contains exemplary material from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [Meatpacking Companies Dismissed Years of Warnings but Now Say Nobody Could Have Prepared for COVID-19](#) – ProPublica, August 20, 2020
- [These States Aren't Waiting for the Feds to Create COVID-19 Worker Safety Rules](#) – Pew, August 19, 2020
- [JBS ordered to impose 1.5-meter worker distancing at Brazil beef plant after COVID-19 outbreak](#) – Reuters, August 20, 2020
- [Canada's Maple Leaf suspends pork exports to China amid COVID-19 outbreak at Manitoba plant](#) – Reuters, August 19, 2020
- [Danish Crown to Resume Production in Denmark After COVID-19 Shutdown](#) – Farm Journal's Pork, August, 18, 2020
- [How meat plant COVID outbreaks revealed 'devastating' workplace conditions](#) – Market Watch, August 20, 2020



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- [20% of Meat Plant Workers Infected with Covid in Large Exporter Brazil, Union Says](#) – Insurance Journal, August 19, 2020
- [EXCLUSIVE: OSHA never visited Missouri poultry facility after COVID-19 complaints](#) – KMBC, August 20, 2020
- [Mapping Covid-19 outbreaks in the food system](#) – Food & Environment Reporting Network
  - “According to data collected by FERN, as of August 21\* at 12pm ET, at least **772** meatpacking and food processing plants (491 meatpacking and 281 food processing) and **100** farms and production facilities have had confirmed cases of Covid-19. At least **56,510** workers (41,167 meatpacking workers, 8,937 food processing workers, and 6,406 farmworkers) have tested positive for Covid-19 and at least **241** workers (193 meatpacking workers, 34 food processing workers, and 14 farmworkers) have died.

## Food packaging media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [Imported frozen foods may have caused New Zealand's new coronavirus outbreak. But it's very rare to get sick from such packages.](#) – Business Insider, August 13, 2020
- [Brazil responds to Coronavirus positive chicken claims](#) – Food Safety News, August 15, 2020
- [New restrictions in China as Covid-19 is found on frozen food imports again](#) – Lodestar, August 17, 2020
- [Philippines bans chicken imports from Brazil on coronavirus scare](#) – Reuters, August 14, 2020
- [Mystery Grows Over Virus Spread Via Food Packaging](#) – Bloomberg, August 18, 2020
- [Coronavirus detected on food packaging](#) – Food Packaging Forum, August 17, 2020
- [Coronavirus Found on Food Packaging, but Likely of Little Concern](#) – The Scientist, August 13, 2020
- [New Zealand Investigates A Mystery: Where Did Its New Cases Come From?](#) – NPR, August 14, 2020
  - [COVID-19 and food safety in Alert Level 2](#) – Ministry for Primary Industries, New Zealand

## Economic media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)

- [Unscrambling COVID-19 Food Supply Chains](#) – SSRN, August 14, 2020 (Context: Effect of regulatory policy shifts to help stabilize egg availability and prices during Mar-May 2020)
- [Economist reviews shocks to beef industry with implications for cattle, beef prices ahead](#) – KSU, August 20, 2020
- [Livestock Economists Examine Impact of COVID-19 on Beef, Pork](#) – AgWeb, August 13, 2020
- [Coronavirus crisis: These 19 groceries have driven up your bill the most during pandemic](#) – USA Today, August 15, 2020

## Food shortage media coverage

(This section contains exemplary media coverage from multiple perspectives around the issue.)



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- [COVID-19 risks to global food security](#) – Science, July 31, 2020
- [Pizza Essentials are Latest to Face Shortages](#) – The Food Institute, August 18, 2020 (Context: References labor and packaging as key issues)
- [Covid-19 and floods spark China food crisis fear](#) – Asia Times, August 14, 2020
- [What is the Food Security Impact of COVID-19 in African Countries?](#) – ICT Works, August 20, 2020

## Recommendations from authoritative bodies

- [UPDATED Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce](#) – CISA
- [NEW Employee Health and Food Safety Checklist for Human and Animal Food Operations During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) - FDA
- [Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition](#) – United Nations
- Opening Facilities
  - [Meat and Poultry Processing Facility Assessment Toolkit](#) – CDC
  - [Agriculture Workers and Employers](#) – CDC and US Dept of Labor
  - [Guidance for workers and employers](#) – OSHA (many documents available)
  - [COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for the Meatpacking Industry](#) – Minnesota Department of Health
  - [CDC updates COVID-19 transmission webpage to clarify information about types of spread](#) - CDC
  - [Strategies to reduce COVID-19 transmission at Smithfield Foods Sioux Falls Pork Plant](#) - CDC
  - [Cleaning and Disinfection for Community Facilities](#) - CDC
  - [Exercise Starter Kit for Workshop on Reconstituting Operations](#) – FEMA
  - [North American Meat Institute Coronavirus Update](#) – NAMI
  - [Testing Strategy for Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) in High-Density Critical Infrastructure Workplaces after a COVID-19 Case Is Identified](#) - CDC
- COVID from Food and Food Packaging
  - [Protecting Seafood Processing Workers from COVID-19](#) – CDC
  - [How COVID-19 Spreads](#) – CDC
  - [Food Safety and the Coronavirus Disease 2019 \(COVID-19\)](#) – FDA (many documents available)

Previous updates available upon request